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## With Our Thanks 2022



**GUILDHALL**  
SCHOOL

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## Arinder: final year Acting student



I'm now entering my final year as an actor at Guildhall School, and what a journey it's been! I have been challenged in ways I have never experienced before and did not expect, and have taken a great amount of time to reflect on all the learning (and, of course, unlearning) from the last two years.

Coming to Guildhall School is one of the best decisions I have ever made: the learning has been tremendous – at times overwhelming – but ultimately, wonderful. The School has provided me with a place to dismantle my thinking, talk through any difficulties I was facing, and given me the space to make bold choices in my work. I can honestly say that I am so grateful to the School, particularly to the staff who have been incredibly supportive along the way.

My path prior to joining Guildhall School was a tumultuous one. As a teenager, I had a dream of being an actor, but coming from a working class background, my parents were

fearful about the viability of this career. Migrants to the country, they were anxious for me to pursue a career that provided status, wealth and security. I indignantly gave up on my dream, despite feeling my most confident and at ease when performing. I soon left school, ironically, without any other education than an 'A' in Drama. Finding a sense of stability in my life, from then on, was incredibly difficult. I went through periods of estrangement from my family, while taking on a variety of jobs from driving buses to becoming a social worker. Finally, in 2009, my old dreams of becoming an actor resurfaced, and I started to attend short courses in acting, which were terrifying, but felt completely right. At first, I was too afraid to audition for drama school, but it continued to nag me.

The opportunity to study at Guildhall School has changed my life, and it wouldn't be possible without the support of my donors. Being assisted financially, I have been able to entirely commit myself to the demanding training that is necessary for becoming a resilient and capable artist. Guildhall School has helped me to embark on this journey – and I am immensely grateful to everyone who has supported me along the way.

*Arinder is supported by South Square Trust and The Leathersellers' Company.*

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# Music for Relaxation, Bonding and Healing

Supporting Guildhall School creates a tangible impact: from providing scholarships to those most in need, to developing projects that change the way we think about and use the performing arts; our staff and students are always pushing to innovate, create, and change the world around us for the better.

For Guildhall School alumna Rhia Parker, using her musicianship within the community is vital to bringing change. In 2016, Rhia embarked on the project 'Music, Memory and Me', a collaboration between University College London Hospital, the Royal Free Hospital, and Guildhall School of Music & Drama. The project aimed to create a more compassionate environment for elderly patients suffering with dementia by sharing live music and songs on the ward: "Much of the work I do facilitates the self-expression of someone who may have little control over their own life, such as a rough sleeper or a dementia patient. But in that moment, they can choose what song they want to hear".

Now, Rhia has developed and led on a new initiative, funded by UCLH Charity and Friends of University College London Hospitals, that provides interactive, multi-sensory music sessions for carers and babies. Carrying out thorough research around patients' experiences of childbirth during the pandemic, she found: "Many had had traumatic experiences: perhaps partners hadn't been allowed to be present for the birth, or they had been left alone and feeling isolated immediately after giving birth or in the days following. We wanted to offer something which they could access in whatever way they felt was useful during this incredibly difficult time".

In response, Parker and her team of students created pieces of music incorporating lullabies, folk songs and field recordings of nature sounds. To make the music accessible to everyone, no matter what language they spoke, each piece was assigned a colour inspired by the 'Rainbow Meditation' from hypnobirthing practice: blue for rocking, swaying and calming, green for nourishing and growing, and yellow for warmth and light. From these early recordings, the project evolved into live group sessions for carers and their babies aged 0-6 months, incorporating elements of listening, singing, moving, dancing and sharing.

Projects like these, she says, are part of the care ecosystem, playing a valuable role in creating space to explore pre and post-natal experiences and promoting peer support and recovery: "It's not as if music comes in and solves all the problems, but we might help to connect some dots or provide a moment of respite. One mother told us that both her parents are in end-of-life care and that her godmother is undergoing chemotherapy. She said that these sessions were a point in her week where she could just be with and connect with her baby and find a moment of calm."

Participating Music students were encouraged to take on more leading roles over the course of the project in order to develop their workshop facilitation skills. Projects such as these are essential to making a much needed difference in our communities and to equipping our students with the necessary skills to undertake meaningful outreach work in the future. Your support enables Guildhall School to create real and necessary change through innovative projects and research.



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# £2.3m raised

*with the help of 458 supporters*

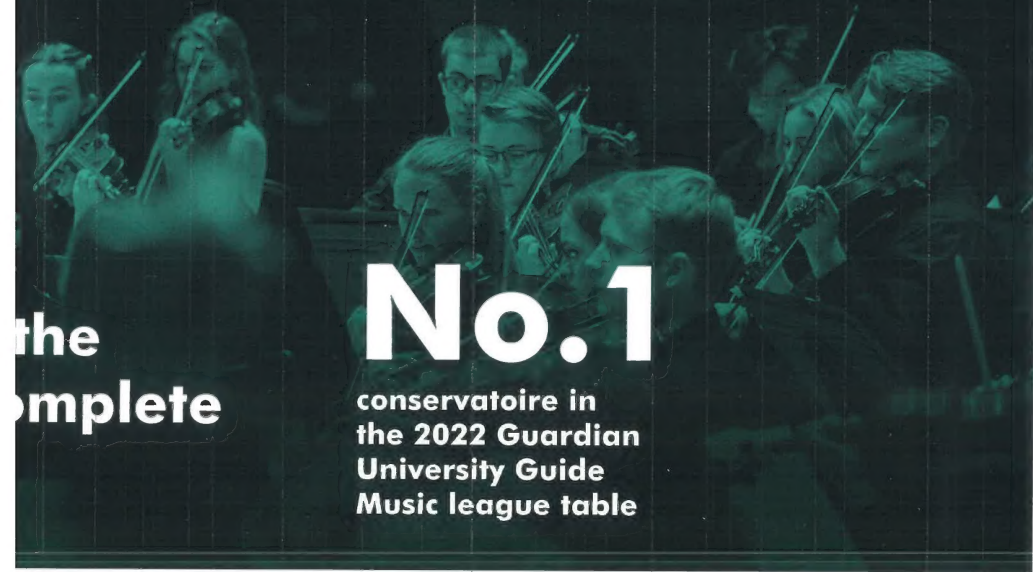
## 125

*professional masterclasses  
held for Music students  
of all disciplines*

the  
complete

## No.1

conservatoire in  
the 2022 Guardian  
University Guide  
Music league table



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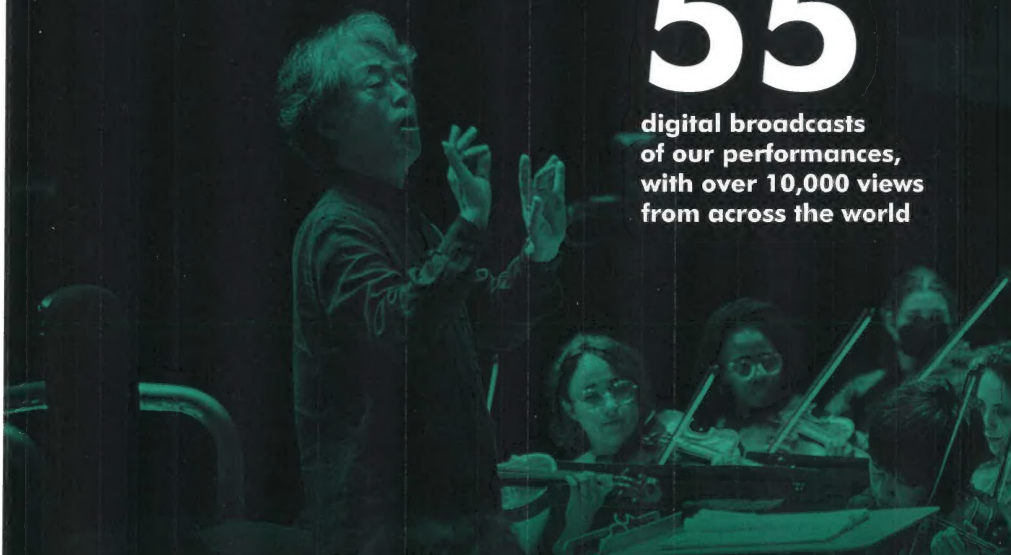
**Thanks to the generous support of our  
donors in 2021-22**

**607**

*higher education  
students supported by  
scholarships this year*

**55**

digital broadcasts  
of our performances,  
with over 10,000 views  
from across the world



**Guildhall School ranked 1st in  
Arts, Drama and Music 2023  
University Guide league table**

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# The impact of your support

Every donation makes a difference to a student in need, and the relationship between a donor and their student can truly have an impact on that emerging artist. Below, we hear from the Worshipful Company of Barbers on their experience of supporting Guildhall School.

The Worshipful Company of Barbers is one of the oldest city livery companies, with a history spanning back over 700 years. The Company has looked after the welfare and interests of barbers and surgeons, managed charitable activities, and played a prominent role in London civic life. As a long-standing supporter of Guildhall School, we hear from the Worshipful Company of Barbers' Clerk, Colonel Malachy Doran, on the Company's experience of supporting the latest Guildhall School Scholar, Eran Sulkin:

"I want to put on record how much we have enjoyed sponsoring Eran. He has, from our perspective, been an outstanding scholar. He has taken a genuine interest in who we are, and has made a great effort to get to know the Company. As well as graciously accepting our invitation to several events, where he has charmed everyone not just with his musical talent but with his engaging personality, he has felt confident enough in our relationship to have dropped into the Hall several times, simply to practice on our piano. From our perspective Eran has been a huge success, and we wish him well for the future."

Eran Sulkin is a prize winning classical pianist from Israel, and was supported by the Worshipful Company of Barbers from 2020 to 2022. Below, we hear from Eran about his experience studying at Guildhall School, and the necessity of scholarships:

"It was so important to have a lifeline of support from the Worshipful Company of Barbers, and it was essential to my development as a pianist. Not only did they support me with a generous scholarship, but they helped in any way they could – from giving me access to the company piano for practice, to helping me when I was struggling to afford entry and train tickets for an international competition. Studying at Guildhall wouldn't have been possible without the support of everyone at the Worshipful Company of Barbers, and I'm immensely proud to have been supported by such an incredible group of people, who believed in me and encouraged me every step of the way. Guildhall has, without a doubt, opened up so many opportunities to me and has allowed me to exponentially grow as a musician. To be in such a prestigious School, receiving the careful tutelage of the world-renowned pianist and teacher, Ronan O'Hara, has been nothing short of a privilege. I feel incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to study at Guildhall School and to have experienced such a close connection with The Worshipful Company of Barbers. I will always be grateful for their generous support."

*Eran is generously supported by the Worshipful Company of Barbers and the James Gibb Award.*



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# Professor Jonathan Vaughan, Principal



Photo Paul Cochrane

Guildhall School is once again buzzing with life. After almost two years of hybrid learning and social-distancing challenges, it is with immense joy that our students return to the stages and rehearsal rooms of Guildhall School.

As a supporter, you cannot underestimate the impact you have on the lives of our students, and the success of our School. You are truly investing in the artists of the future: artistic citizens and creative leaders who will share their talent on stage, behind the scenes and in community settings across the world for decades to come.

2022 has brought many changes, and after a year of acting as the interim Principal, I am delighted to have been newly appointed as

the permanent Principal of Guildhall School. During my time as interim Principal, I witnessed the crucial importance of our supporters and the impact you make; by offering vital financial support at a formative time in our students' lives and careers, you are alleviating immense pressure. As tuition fees continue to rise, and the cost-of-living crisis looms, many of our students would otherwise be unable to take up their hard-earned places at Guildhall School; it is because of your generosity that our exceptional students flourish.

Inside this edition of *With Our Thanks*, you will find some key stories detailing how your support directly affects the life of our School and our students. While we are still facing many challenges, we continue to be there for those who have the drive, the passion and the capability to succeed.

I want to extend my most sincere thanks to you for your continued investment in our community, which has never been more essential or more appreciated. Thank you on behalf of myself, the School, and of course, the hundreds of students benefiting from your support.

# With Our Thanks

This year has been one of rebuilding and re-opening our doors to staff, students and audiences alike. We know that it is only with your support that we can continue to deliver world-class professional training to the next generation of musicians, actors, and production artists. With our 150th anniversary fast approaching in 2030, we are focused on our priorities for the future: attracting the world's best students, ensuring they are unimpeded by financial constraints; offering world-class training and building on our leadership position as one of the best conservatoires in the world; and to be world-leaders in research through investing in a new Institute for Social Impact Research in the Performing Arts that will inform our Artists in Society learning agenda. Because of this, your support is more valuable than ever.

In the last four years, we have seen a considerable increase in scholarship applications (by over 30%) from students who are struggling financially. Year on year, our students face new challenges, such as:

- The cost-of-living crisis making studying in London more challenging than ever
- Changes being made to the value of student loans (students from 2023 will now pay their loans for 40 years, with the minimum repayment threshold set at £25,000, meaning students starting courses in 2023 pay more than any other cohort towards their education)
- Due to Brexit, we are unable to offer Home fee status to EU students, resulting in an increase to fees of £21,800+ per annum for these students.

It is only with your help, from each of our 500 supporters including major donors, Patrons and Circle members that we can continue to be a global leader in the performing arts.

Your generosity has provided hundreds of exceptional students with the means to study at Guildhall School.

Thank you.



Photo Mihaela Bodlovic